

strong bipartisan support. We want to make sure that the funding for that program that was included in last year and which local school districts have been depending on will not be pulled out from underneath those young children.

The Goals 2000—again with bipartisan support—each 5 percent of this money, or \$67 million, will actually go to the local school districts which are interested in reform; strengthening the academic achievements and accomplishments of young Americans. It has the broad support of the education community and of the parents, teachers, the business community that are in support of the Goals 2000 program.

The Head Start Program, which we revamped and rechartered just over in the last Congress, and had strong bipartisan support, virtually unanimously reported out of our committee and the strong support in appropriating the funds, this represents about a quarter of a reduction in the increases for the Head Start Program. Only about 38 percent of all of our young people get any Head Start Program. We extended the Head Start Program from zero to four to recognize that the recommendations of the Carnegie Commission report that talked about the importance for the nurturing and nutrition, particularly in the early years, and the relationship between that kind of a tension and the academic achievement of children. Now, as is increasingly apparent, we need the kind of support that Head Start provides for that early intervention. We have responded to it. There are school districts all over the country that are depending upon that funding. We should not pull the rug out from the Head Start Program.

The Women, Infants, and Children's program, the \$35 million for expectant mothers that do not have the financial resources to get the adequate nutrition to make sure that we are going to have healthy babies, this program has been tried, tested and reviewed. It should not be cut back.

The School-to-Work program, where we have seen a new basis of trying to do something for the 70 percent of our young people that do not go on to higher education. They are the ones who have been too often left out and left behind. We have a good program that again has bipartisan support. This program will be reshaped and adjusted under the leadership of Senator KASSEBAUM and others to be a basis for the whole youth training program. We should not abandon that program.

The child care program, a modest program that only addresses about 4 or 5 percent of the total needs of child care for working families, working mothers primarily, we should not deny that kind of very important support system for working mothers, particularly those that are in the entry-level jobs and the modest income. We know that child care takes up anywhere from a quarter to a third of the income for

working mothers. This provided some help and assistance on the basis of need for mothers primarily, but also for single fathers, primarily for single mothers so that they can go out and work and be a part of our whole economic system.

The other programs we have referred to in terms of housing and the youth training are mentioned here.

These are all worthwhile programs that have been tried, tested and evaluated, and in which the local communities—primarily the teachers, the parents, the students—have been depending upon for support. We want to restore education and children's programs.

Against that, Mr. President, we have \$1.4 billion that otherwise would be regained for the Federal Treasury, \$3.6 billion over a period of 10 years. It is extraordinary to me that, if we are attempting to try to represent the best of what is in the interest of the working families in our society, it is such a compelling case for the support for these programs and such a compelling case to capture the legitimate responsible resources that should be paid in by these billionaires, it is amazing that we have to spend the amount of time that we have had to to get a favorable vote on the Daschle amendment or to get the vote on the billionaire tax break. We have been trying since last Friday to get a vote on that billionaire tax break. We have worked out a procedure by which we will be able to, after we conclude to vote on matters which have been described as at the majority leader's request. This issue is not going to go away. We are going to get a vote on this measure. They may be able to frustrate us by 1 day or a few hours. But we will yet get a vote on that. I hope it will be overwhelming. I hope it will be unanimous. The majority leader has indicated his support for that program, the chairman of the Finance Committee, and Senator MOYNIHAN has indicated his strong support, Senator BRADLEY, and others.

There is no reason in the world why we cannot send the message to the House, which evidently is the reluctant partner in this proposal, that the Senate of the United States is virtually unanimous in support of this proposal. We need to do that. I hope we have the earliest opportunity to do so.

Mr. President, I am sure the American people are wondering why we cannot take action on that particular proposal. I am sure they are wondering why the proposal was dropped in the conference in any event. But they understand what is the issue before us, and hopefully we can have clear, resounding, overwhelming support, hopefully universal support, for that particular proposal.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ABRAHAM). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANTORUM. I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANTORUM. I thank the Chair.

NO ACTION IN THE SENATE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, we are waiting around. Probably lots of people are wondering what we are doing while the House of Representatives is storming along at a rapid pace, accomplishing an enormous amount of work here in the first 100 days. They are over there right now trying to pass a tax bill—a tax-cut bill, not a tax increase. You get a tax bill around here and you think to reach for your pocket. No, this is a tax-cut bill.

I actually wonder why the people are here. The action is over there. The action is not here. We are waiting here. We are waiting and waiting and waiting and waiting. What are we waiting for? We are waiting to hear from the leaders on the Democratic side as to how much more money they want to spend this year—not how we can get to a balanced budget but how much more money they want to pack into this appropriations bill, not how we are going to get the budget down to zero but how much more we are going to spend this year.

And I can say that I speak for a large body of people on this side of the aisle who question the sincerity of folks who during the balanced budget debate got up and said, "I'm for a balanced budget. I am just not for a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. But I am for a balanced budget. We have the power to make these tough decisions. We have it right now. The power is within us. We can do it. We do not need some phony baloney constitutional amendment to get us to face the tough decisions of getting this country back on track. We can do it."

And so they used that argument and the phony baloney about Social Security to oppose the balanced budget amendment. Well, as a sports announcer in Pittsburgh likes to say, "The turkey is on the table." Right here is a spending cut proposal, a proposal that funds California disaster relief assistance that they need but makes further rescissions, cuts in spending, for this fiscal year and next fiscal year.

So what do we see? We have seen for the past 2 weeks a filibuster. Oh, no, you will not see it called that in the national media. They would not dare call anything that the other side of the aisle is doing a dilatory tactic. They are delaying and delaying and delaying so we do not get this bill passed. This

is the game. The end game is do nothing. Let us not pass a rescission bill. Let us not cut spending. Let us not put a downpayment on deficit reduction. Let us, as the leaders of the other side want to do, trot out an amendment to spend more money.

And so what are we doing? We are waiting. We are waiting—the unwritten story of the first 100 days. I have not seen it anywhere. It is absolutely unbelievable to me. The unwritten story of the first 100 days is not that the House accomplished so much and what happened to the Senate? The unwritten story is the filibustering, delaying tactics of the minority in the Senate to stop what the November election was all about. That is what is going on here.

You want to point to the folks who are trying to derail the train from happening in this country? Look across the aisle. Look at the empty desks. Look at the folks who want to delay, delay, delay. They know if they delay this bill over the recess, a lot of these spending cut proposals go away. Why? Because they are spending cut proposals for this fiscal year. And by the time we get back in May a lot more money will be spent because we are another month and a half into the fiscal year. And so the longer they wait the less we can cut. They know this. And so that is what is going on. Delay, delay, delay. Do not give anybody success. God forbid that we have any bipartisan effort to try to achieve anything around here. Let us play the partisan game of delay, and then stand up and say, "Geez, these folks can't get anything done around here," when the fact is they do not want to change Washington. They do not want to change Washington. They built Washington, and they like it just the way it is. And any time you touch any of their sacred cows, oh, you are mean-spirited. You do not care about people. I care about kids born today who will be saddled, if we do nothing to reduce this deficit—and that is what this bill is all about, reducing the deficit—if we do nothing to reduce the deficit, who will be saddled with 82 percent tax rates—82 percent tax rates over their lifetime, 82 percent of everything you earn goes to the Government to take care of people.

That is the message here in Washington today: You just give it to us and we will take care of everything you need. Folks, that has been rejected all around the world.

It is just incredible to me, it is incredible to me that the very people who blocked the balanced budget amendment will now come to the floor and stop any further deficit reduction.

How can you justify that in your own mind, unless, of course, you are not really for deficit reduction, not really for a balanced budget in the first place.

I do not have any problem—and there are several Senators who come up to the floor, and I give them a lot of credit, who come up to the floor and looked into these cameras and looked around

at their colleagues and said, "I'm not for a balanced budget. I think the Federal Government can be just fine running a deficit and we will be fine."

That is being intellectually honest. I do not agree with it, but there is a body of economists out there who believe we can run a deficit and disaster is not impending. Again, I do not agree with it. I think the weight of the evidence is contrary to that. But at least they have the courage to come to the floor and say they do not want to do it.

But quit double-crossing the American public by putting out these passionate speeches about how much you want to get this budget into balance and how the children of this country need it, and when the chance comes where the pedal is supposed to be put to the metal and the rubber hits the road, we call off the race. We decide, no, no, no, we cannot do that. Oh, we cannot cut that program; oh, no, we cannot cut that program. "You know, oh, no, well, this is only .003 percent of the budget. You cannot cut that; I mean, it is so small. Why would you want to cut that?" Or, "We have got a brand-new program of AmeriCorps, which is a great program." Of course, we have increased funding on that. You can go down the list.

I mean, how is the American public going to take this institution seriously? I mean, they are going to look at what happens here and they are going to say, "Wait a minute."

Are we really serious about solving problems? What were we elected to do here? I do not think we were elected in the last election just to come down here and keep doing the same old thing. We were not elected to do the same old thing. We were elected to make changes. We were elected to get our house in order.

And now we have this debate going on between the leaders of the Democratic side and us, the Republican side, about how much more they want to spend. And, do you know something? We made a proposal. We said, "OK. You want to spend \$1.3 billion more"—that is what they came up with, \$1.3 billion more—"fine." We made an offer. We said, "How about if we give you half of what you want. You give us half of what we want, we will give you half of what you want. We will split the difference, and let us do the bill."

That is the art of compromise. I mean, not just here in Washington, but in everyday life. I mean, we do not always get everything we want. Sometimes you have to sit down and you have to have minds meet.

And so we said, "Let's hear the reasonable offer." Now, that is what we are debating right now—whether a reasonable offer will be accepted. Let us just each meet each other half way. In the end we will have a \$15 billion deficit reduction. You can restore the programs that you say will jeopardize the health and safety of so many millions of people. We do not agree with that, but you are passionate about it. Let us

put the money back in. We will provide some offsets—in other words, some spending cuts—to pay for these programs and we will be able to put it back together and move the bill.

The leader just walked on the floor. I mean, the leader is spending day after day after day trying to get things done around here. All we have is people obstructing, obstructing, obstructing, obstructing, obstructing.

Let us not let these folks succeed in what they want to do. My goodness, if they accomplish the Contract With America, the American public may actually like them; may actually support what they want to do. They may actually vote for them in the next election. We cannot have that. We cannot have them vote for them, because that means they will vote against us. And if they vote against us, then we will not be here. And if we stall, if we delay, maybe—maybe, maybe—we will be able to cloud the issue up enough, muddy the waters enough, that they will blame all of us. Since there are more of them now than there are of us, we will be OK. We may lose a little bit, they may lose a little bit, but we will not really get hurt.

That is the strategy. That is what is going on here in the U.S. Senate.

You know, I ran for U.S. Senate and I was told this was the upper Chamber, a more deliberative body, where, you know, you had statesmen actually come here and do what was right for the country—do what was right for the country—not worry about partisan advantages or playing politics, but do what was in its best interests of this country.

And so what we have seen is the House of Representatives follow through with a promise they made to America. They promised the American public that they were going to do these 10 things. Imagine that. Imagine. Politicians making promises. Oh, we have heard a lot of promises from politicians around here. All over the campaign trail, we make promises.

But think of this: Politicians who made promises who lived up to their promises. Is not that amazing?

That is exactly what they are doing over in the House of Representatives. These 10 things they said we were going to bring to the floor of the House of Representatives and, darn it, did they not? Every single one of them came to the floor for open debate, for amendments.

And, do you know what? After today, when they vote the tax bill—which I understand is supposed to pass—they will have passed 90 percent of the Contract With America. Not only did they live up to the promise of bringing all the stuff to the floor—and that is what the contract said, we will bring it to the floor. They brought it to the floor not saying, well, we are going to promise a tax cut and then bring a tax bill that was a tax increase. No, no. No bait and switch here. No "read my lips"

here. No middle-class tax cut that turned into a middle-class tax increase.

But elected officials, people in Washington, Congressmen, who actually lived up to what they said they would do. Amazing. Amazing.

And so here we are in the U.S. Senate, looking at the model over there, and saying, "Boy, wouldn't it be nice if we could come to the U.S. Senate floor, and we could stand up"—and we do not have to vote in lockstep with the House. I would not suggest it. It is a different body; different rules; different procedures; and different ideas.

But to stand here and play politics and delay on an issue that is—of all the issues that we are dealing with here in Washington, the one that is highest above all is getting our financial house in order. That is what the American public want us to do. They want us to get our house in order.

And so, we have our first chance, right here—the first spending cut bill since the balanced budget amendment. The first chance for the U.S. Senate where the vote of the balance budget amendment occurs, right here—all of us, all 100 of us were sitting in our chairs. We stood up one at a time.

It was a very impressive moment for a young—I know the Presiding Officer, the Senator from Michigan, was just as impressed in casting that vote. It was a very awe-inspiring moment.

But we lost. And we lost because of the argument that we did not need the amendment to force us to make tough decisions. OK. Fine. You say we do not need the amendment. We do not have the amendment.

Now we have the tough decisions. And where are we? We are nowhere. We are waiting and waiting and waiting and waiting and waiting. And they are delaying and delaying and delaying, just like they did—you know, the amazing thing is they just are not delaying on this bill. The Democrats have delayed on every bill—every single bill. Even bills they liked.

I have heard the leader stand up here many times and say, you know, we passed a bill here earlier in the year, the congressional accountability bill, that makes us live by the laws here in Congress that we impose on other people's lives around America. It was over a week of debate, of delay, of dilatory tactics. It passed 98 to 1—98 to 1. It took us better than a week. It took the House an hour—98 to 1.

The next bill was the unfunded mandates bill, another bill that passed 86 to 10, 2 weeks or more. Two weeks of endless debate, delay. Why? Did they disagree? Of course not, 86 to 10. Was the bill changed a lot? No.

So what was the point? What was the point there? Why did we do that? Why did we go through that? Why have we gone 2 weeks on this rescission bill?

Are there a lot of amendments substantive to the bill? Oh, a couple.

Have we had lots of interesting debate? Some.

Have there been agreements to move the bill along, to actually come to

votes on some of these things? No, no; we cannot do that. Well, tomorrow we have a vote on cloture on this bill. Cloture means to end the debate. Let us get this thing done. Let us end the debate tomorrow and let us stay here and finish the bill. We will see how many of these deficit hawks, these people who really are concerned about getting the deficit under control—and I will guarantee you, every one of the people delaying this bill will go back home to their States over the recess and talk about how they are for deficit reduction; how they are for changing Washington; how they want to make things different here; how this just happened to be a bad bill; how this just went a little too far.

Folks, this is \$15 billion in deficit reduction—excuse me, \$15 billion in spending cuts and deficit reduction. That is out of \$1.6 trillion, and this goes too far? Get serious. Nobody believes it goes too far. These are the decisions we have to make that we are no longer forced to make, that we are not going to be forced to make because the balanced budget amendment did not pass.

So the unwritten story, the story that may be written here—I hope not—but the story that may be written here in the next couple of days is going to be how 46 Senators conspired to stop the train, did everything they could, everything they could to make sure that elections do not matter. That is right, that elections do not matter; that what people on November 8 said is irrelevant, that it did not happen. Denial and hope that if they just keep muddying the waters, if they just keep deflecting away the real issues before us, that maybe they will just blame the whole lot of us and not them.

I had to come out here today and just say the buck stops there. You want to change Washington? You know where the change has to happen. It is very simple. Do not let all these cries about, oh, how this is going to be so terrible—offer your amendments. You want to put back money for WIC? I will offer an offset. I will pay for the increase, and I will vote with you. I will increase money for WIC—Women, Infants, and Children. I have no problem with that. That is a good program. We will put more money back in. You will get a lot of Republicans to vote for that. Just come up with the money to offset it. Just pay for it. Keep the deficit reduction at the same level so if you want to add in \$50 million for it, fine, we will take \$50 million out of, oh, let us pick the AmeriCorps Program and offset it.

Set your priorities. Is that not what you want us to do? Do you not want us to set priorities? Do you not want us to say this program is more important than this program? We, obviously, would love to give all the money to every program and everything we want to do. But as everybody in America, maybe outside of 46 people in this room, believes and knows, we do not have all the money to give for everything. So we have to set priorities.

Let us set them. Come on down to the floor. Offer those amendments. Put that money back in for WIC. I will be right there with you. Take the other programs you say are just outrageous cuts; come on, let us talk about them and let us set priorities. Let us offset that money. Let us do it. Let us show the American public we really do care, that the deficit is really important.

You have the chairman of the Budget Committee here, the Senator from New Mexico. I know he cares about the budget. I know his family has not seen much of him because that is all he is doing probably is working on how to get to that balanced budget, and he is making a lot of tough decisions. Folks, we are ready to make the decisions. You told us in the balanced budget debate you were ready to make the decisions. Why are you not here? What is the problem? Is it just politics? Is it just partisanship? Do you not want to come here and solve problems? We deserve better. This institution deserves better.

Eleven freshmen Republicans did not come here to let the status quo continue. You want to fight; you do not want to come here and make things happen. We are ready. We are ready. We will stand here as long as it takes. We are ready to do battle.

We are ready to let the American public decide what direction they want this country to take: More spending, more Government, more power, more control in the hands of the people in Washington; or more money, more power, more control, more freedom in your hands on Main Street, America? That is the issue. We are ready. We are waiting. And we will wait, and we will wait, and we will wait.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DOMENICI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I want to commend my friend from Pennsylvania, the new Senator, for his remarks, and I hope that I have a few minutes. I inquire what the parliamentary situation is, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business has been closed, but if the Senator seeks consent, he can speak as in morning business.

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE MEDICARE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I want to talk today to everyone in this body and every American who will listen and, in particular, senior citizens across this land, because something is happening that we are not paying attention to and we ought to be doing